WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A facsimile apparatus which is operatively connected to a central data processing apparatus, said facsimile apparatus comprising:

a performance measuring mechanism that measures at least one performance related to facsimile operations;

a memory that stores measurement data relating to said at least one performance measured by said performance measuring mechanism;

a data reading mechanism that receives a request for data transmission and that, in response to said request, reads said measurement data relating to said at least one performance from said memory; and

a data transfer mechanism that transfers said data read by said data reading mechanism to said central data processing apparatus.

2. The facsimile apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said performance measuring mechanism measures, on an hourly basis, a number of times that facsimile communications have been performed and a time of line vacancy.

3. The facsimile apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said performance measuring mechanism measures a usage rate of memories included in said facsimile apparatus.

4. The facsimile apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said performance measuring mechanism keeps count of a number of recording sheets that have been used for printing received facsimile messages and of occurrences that said recording sheets are spent out.

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5.   The facsimile apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said performance measuring mechanism keeps count of a number of times that each facsimile function provided in said facsimile apparatus has been used.

6.   The facsimile apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said facsimile apparatus is connected to said central data processing apparatus via a telephone line network.

7.   The facsimile apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said facsimile apparatus and said central data processing apparatus perform communications operations in accordance with a group 3 facsimile protocol.

8.   A facsimile apparatus which is operatively connected to a central data processing apparatus, said facsimile apparatus comprising:

measuring means for measuring at least one performance related to facsimile operations;

memory means for storing measurement data relating to said at least one performance measured by said performance measuring means;

data reading means for receiving a request for data transmission and that, in response to said request, reads said measurement data relating to said at least one performance from said memory means; and

data transfer means for transferring said data read by said data reading means to said central data processing apparatus.

9.   The facsimile apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said performance measuring means measures, on an hourly basis, a

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number of times that facsimile communications have been performed and a time of line vacancy.

10. The facsimile apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said performance measuring means measures a usage rate of memory means included in said facsimile apparatus.

11. The facsimile apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said performance measuring means keeps count of a number of recording sheets that have been used for printing received facsimile messages and of occurrences that said recording sheets are spent out.

12. The facsimile apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said performance measuring means keeps count of a number of times that each facsimile function provided in said facsimile apparatus has been used.

13. The facsimile apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said facsimile apparatus is connected to said central data processing apparatus via a telephone line network.

14. The facsimile apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said facsimile apparatus and said central data processing apparatus perform communications operations in accordance with a group 3 facsimile protocol.

15. A method for a facsimile apparatus to transmit facsimile performance information to a central data processing apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an operative connection between said facsimile apparatus and said central data processing apparatus;

measuring at least one performance related to facsimile operations;

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storing measurement data relating to said at least one performance measured by said measuring step;

receiving a request for data transmission;

reading said measurement data relating said at least one
5 performance stored by said storing step, in response to said request received by said receiving step; and

transferring said data read by said reading step to said central data processing apparatus.

16.   The method of Claim 15, wherein said measuring step
10 measures, on an hourly basis, a number of times that facsimile communications have been performed and a time of line vacancy.

17.   The method of Claim 15, wherein said measuring step measures a usage rate of memories included in said facsimile apparatus.

15   18.   The method of Claim 15, wherein said measuring step keeps count of a number of recording sheets that have been used for printing received facsimile messages and of occurrences that said recording sheets are spent out.

19.   The method of Claim 15, wherein said measuring step
20 keeps count of a number of times that each facsimile function provided in said facsimile apparatus has been used.

20.   The method of Claim 15, wherein said operative connection is a telephone line network.

21.   The method of Claim 15, wherein said facsimile
25 apparatus and said central data processing apparatus perform communications operations in accordance with a group 3 facsimile protocol.

22.   A   facsimile   performance   monitoring   system,

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comprising:

a central data processing apparatus; and

a plurality of facsimile apparatuses, each of which is operatively connected to said central data processing

5 apparatus, each of said plurality of facsimile apparatus comprising:

a performance measuring mechanism that measures at least one performance related to facsimile operations;

a memory that stores measurement data relating to

10 said at least one performance measured by said performance measuring mechanism;

a data reading mechanism that receives a request for data transmission and that, in response to said request, reads said measurement data relating to said at least one

15 performance from said memory; and

a data transfer mechanism that transfers said data read by said data reading mechanism to said central data processing apparatus.

23. The facsimile performance monitoring system of

20 Claim 22, wherein said performance measuring mechanism measures, on an hourly basis, a number of times that facsimile communications have been performed and a time of line vacancy.

24. The facsimile performance monitoring system of Claim 22, wherein said performance measuring mechanism measures

25 a usage rate of memories included in said facsimile apparatus.

25. The facsimile performance monitoring system of Claim 22, wherein said performance measuring mechanism keeps count of a number of recording sheets that have been used for

printing received facsimile messages and of occurrences that said recording sheets are spent out.

26. The facsimile performance monitoring system of Claim 22, wherein said performance measuring mechanism keeps count of a number of times that each facsimile function provided in said facsimile apparatus has been used.

27. The facsimile performance monitoring system of Claim 22, wherein said facsimile apparatus is connected to said central data processing apparatus via a telephone line network.

28. The facsimile performance monitoring system of Claim 22, wherein said facsimile apparatus and said central data processing apparatus perform communications operations in accordance with a group 3 facsimile protocol.

29. A facsimile performance monitoring system, comprising:

central data processing means; and

a plurality of facsimile apparatuses, each of which is operatively connected to said central data processing means, each of said plurality of facsimile apparatus comprising:

measuring means for measuring at least one performance related to facsimile operations;

memory means for storing measurement data relating to said at least one performance measured by said performance measuring means;

data reading means for receiving a request for data transmission and that, in response to said request, reads said measurement data relating to said at least one performance from said memory means; and

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data transfer means for transferring said data read by said data reading means to said central data processing means.

30. The facsimile performance monitoring system of Claim 29, wherein said performance measuring means measures, on an hourly basis, a number of times that facsimile communications have been performed and a time of line vacancy.

31. The facsimile performance monitoring system of Claim 29, wherein said performance measuring means measures a usage rate of memory means included in said facsimile apparatus.

32. The facsimile performance monitoring system of Claim 29, wherein said performance measuring means keeps count of a number of recording sheets that have been used for printing received facsimile messages and of occurrences that said recording sheets are spent out.

33. The facsimile performance monitoring system of Claim 29, wherein said performance measuring means keeps count of a number of times that each facsimile function provided in said facsimile apparatus has been used.

34. The facsimile performance monitoring system of Claim 29, wherein said facsimile apparatus is connected to said central data processing means via a telephone line network.

35. The facsimile performance monitoring system of Claim 29, wherein said facsimile apparatus and said central data processing means perform communications operations in accordance with a group 3 facsimile protocol.

36. A method for a facsimile performance monitoring

system, comprising the steps of:

 providing a central data processing apparatuses;

 providing a plurality of facsimile apparatus; and

 providing a plurality of operative connections between
5 said central data processing apparatus and each of said
plurality of facsimile apparatuses, said method comprising the
steps of:

 measuring at least one performance related to facsimile
operations;

10 storing measurement data relating to said at least one
performance measured by said measuring step;

 receiving a request for data transmission;

 reading said measurement data relating to said at least
one performance stored by said storing step, in response to
15 said request received by said receiving step; and

  transferring said data read by said reading step to
said central data processing apparatus.

 37. The method of Claim 36, wherein said measuring step
measures, on an hourly basis, a number of times that facsimile
20 communications have been performed and a time of line vacancy.

 38. The method of Claim 36, wherein said measuring step
measures a usage rate of memories included in said facsimile
apparatus.

 39. The method of Claim 36, wherein said measuring step
25 keeps count of a number of recording sheets that have been used
for printing received facsimile messages and of occurrences
that said recording sheets are spent out.

 40. The method of Claim 36, wherein said measuring step

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keeps count of a number of times that each facsimile function
provided in said facsimile apparatus has been used.

    41.   The method of Claim 36, wherein said operative
connection is a telephone line network.

5   42.   The method of Claim 36, wherein said facsimile
apparatus and said central data processing apparatus perform
communications operations in accordance with a group 3
facsimile protocol.